

Intermountain Region  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



**ZION NATIONAL PARK**  
**36 CFR 1.7(b), COMPENDIUM**

**April 5, 2012**

The Zion National Park Compendium as dated is hereby approved and will remain in effect until either rescinded or superseded.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent Date

Document with original signature on file in the Zion National Park Chief Ranger's Office

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## **ZION NATIONAL PARK**

### **36 CFR 1.7 (b) Compendium**

#### **Authority**

Under the authority of 16 U.S.C., Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, a Superintendent's Orders Compendium is established for Zion National Park. Regulations listed in this compendium are requirements in addition to those listed in the specific section found in Title 36 unless otherwise noted. The specific authority for this regulatory procedure is found in § 1.5, 1.6, and 1.7 of Title 36.

#### **Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements, and Other Restrictions**

### **§1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits**

- (a)(1)(i) ***Cliff faces and rock formations occupied by nesting peregrine falcons will generally be closed from March 1 through July 31. Climbing on faces, routes or formations closed under the authority of this order is prohibited.***

Nesting territories often contain multiple nesting sites, therefore specific closures will be issued each season as nesting behavior is determined. A list of closed climbing routes and areas is available at the park Visitor Center and posted on the Park website.

**Justification:** The peregrine falcon, though removed from the Endangered Species list in 1999, requires continued protection. These restrictions are necessary to provide the falcons with an undisturbed opportunity to raise and fledge their young.

- (a)(1)(ii) ***The Weeping Rock Parking Area is closed to all vehicles or combinations thereof exceeding nineteen feet (5.85 meters) in length.***

***Canyon Overlook Parking (North side of road) is closed to all vehicles or combinations thereof exceeding nineteen feet (5.85m) in length***

**Justification:** Vehicles exceeding this length cannot safely negotiate the small turning radius within the Weeping Rock parking area and, if allowed into this area, create traffic congestion that is unacceptable and a great inconvenience for other area users.

Vehicles exceeding this length do not easily fit into designated stalls at Canyon Overlook parking without blocking or impeding egress from parking lot.

- (a)(1)(iii) ***Travel by motorized vehicles on the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive during the shuttle operation season (usually early April through late October) is prohibited without a permit.***

The types of uses and restrictions are outlined in the park SOP, entitled "Red/White Permit Program – 4/06 revision"

**Justification:** Shuttle operation and restrictions on private vehicle use along the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive permit large numbers of visitors to use Zion Canyon while significantly reducing traffic congestion, noise, parking problems and associated impacts to natural resources.

- (a)(1)(iv) ***The Lava Point and West Rim Roads and the Lava Point Campground are closed to all vehicles, and combinations thereof, exceeding nineteen feet (5.85 meters) in length.***

**Justification:** There is insufficient space within these areas to allow vehicles exceeding the specified length without

causing safety and congestion problems.

- (a)(1)(v) ***Heap's Creek from the Upper Emerald Pool to the base of the Navajo Formation and the three Emerald Pools are closed to swimming, bathing, and wading.***

**Justification:** The integrity of the pools and creek has been drastically altered by human activity, especially the long tradition of swimming/bathing. This can create a negative visitor experience as the ability for visitors to enjoy the natural sounds of the area is diminished.

- (a)(1)(vi) ***All watercraft use in all watercourses in the Park, to include the Virgin River, requires a permit.***

The types of watercraft permitted are those specifically designed and manufactured for whitewater use. Operators must be equipped with USCG approved personal flotation devices (PFDs). The above watercraft will be allowed by permit only on the North Fork of the Virgin River during periods of the year when the flow in the river exceeds 150 cubic feet per second (cfs) at USGS stream gage 09405500 (North Fork Virgin River near Springdale). Permits will not be issued for trips north of the Temple of Sinawava when the flow in the river exceeds 600 cfs. For trips involving any area north of the Temple of Sinawava, the level will be determined by the minimum or maximum flow for the 24 hours preceding the request for the permit. For trips involving any area south of the Temple of Sinawava, the flow will be based on a current reading. Recreational inflatable tubes are not allowed on any watercourses within the park boundaries.

**Justification:** While the use of watercraft is generally not considered appropriate, it is recognized that during certain times of the year and under certain conditions, runoff through the North Fork of the Virgin River makes floating this stretch of water a unique, challenging, and rewarding recreational experience.

During the busier visitation months, conflicts with other park users have indicated that watercraft use is not in keeping with the unique and spiritually refreshing qualities afforded by a quiet desert stream such as the North Fork of the Virgin River.

Rescue resources are limited to non-existent for areas north of the Temple of Sinawava at flows in excess of 600 cfs due to the extreme difficulty of the trip.

The Virgin spinedace spawning season is approximately from mid March to July 1<sup>st</sup>. Water levels during significant runoff events in late spring would be high enough that spinedace would not likely be affected by the type of watercraft mentioned above.

- (a)(1)(vii) ***The portion of the North Fork of the Virgin River within Zion National Park above Big Spring is closed when the river is flowing in excess of 120 cfs.***

***The portion of the North Fork of the Virgin River within Zion National Park between the end of Riverside Walk and Big Spring is closed when the river is flowing in excess of 150 cfs.***

***The entire Kolob Canyon drainage is closed when the North Fork of the Virgin River is flowing in excess of 120 cfs; the individual sections of Kolob Canyon listed below are closed when the Washington County Water Conservancy District's stated release from Kolob Dam exceeds the corresponding limit:***

- ***Kolob Reservoir to Oak Creek: 5 cfs***
- ***Oak Creek to MIA Route: 10 cfs***
- ***MIA route to North Fork: 15 cfs***

Flow rates for the North Fork of the Virgin River will be determined using the USGS gage 09405500 (North Fork Virgin River near Springdale).

During spring runoff, the flow rate will be determined to be the maximum flow recorded during the preceding 24-hour period. During periods other than spring runoff, the flow rate will be determined using current readings.

Permits will also not be issued for any canyon hike in the park once a flash flood warning has been issued by the National Weather Service. Permits will not be issued until 8 hours after the flash flood warning has been lifted. During this period, the portion of the North Fork of the Virgin River within Zion National Park beyond the end of Riverside Walk is closed to all entry.

**Justification:**

The limits are based on staff experience as well as the 1997 "Streamflow effects on Hiking in Zion National Park, Utah" completed by Shelby, Whittaker, and Hansen. Average visitors cannot safely travel the length of the Zion Narrows when flow rates are in excess of 120 cfs. Average visitors can not travel through the section of the North Fork of the Virgin River below Big Springs at flows in excess of 150 cfs.

When the Washington County Water District releases water from the Kolob Reservoir, potentially deadly conditions can be created in Kolob Canyon. Experience has shown that there are upper limits for safe hiking for the average hiker through this area.

- (a)(1)(viii) *The portion of the Petroglyph Canyon drainage north of the main park road is limited to groups of 12 persons or less.*

**Justification:** Due to the limited size of the areas from which to view the rock art panels, group size limits are needed. Sandy soils in this area also cannot support high visitor traffic.

- (a)(1)(ix) *From April 1<sup>st</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, bus tours are permitted to park in the following locations, space permitting:*
- *Buses with planned activities at the Zion Lodge may park in the designated bus parking space at the Zion Lodge. Buses may not drive beyond the Zion Lodge.*
  - *The Zion Human History Museum, with loading or unloading not permitted in front of the museum which is reserved for the Zion Shuttle Bus system.*
  - *Any of the paved pullouts between Canyon Junction and the west side Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel entrance as long as the vehicle completely fits within the pullout.*
  - *The Checkerboard Mesa Viewpoint.*
  - *Tour buses waiting for an escort through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel may wait in the area commonly referred to as the "bullpen".*
  - *The Zion Nature Center.*

*From November 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup> Buses may also park in the parking areas at the Grotto Picnic Area, the Temple of Sinawava and the Zion Canyon Visitor Center.*

*Kolob Canyon: Year round parking (weather/snow conditions permitting) for bus tours is available at the Kolob Visitor Center and the Timber Creek Overlook only.*

*Groups with academic fee waiver (school buses or charters) are exempt from the above parking regulations during the shuttle bus season.*

**Justification:** Due to the narrow roadway, large groups of people walking on or alongside the roadway pose a safety hazard to themselves and others. The Zion Canyon Visitor Center parking lot is difficult if not impossible for full sized buses to maneuver in after 11:00 am during the busy season.

- (a)(1)(x) *Government and concessionaire employee housing areas are closed to public access.*

**Justification:** Restricting public access to government and concessionaire employee housing areas provides improved security and privacy to residents while not adversely impacting park visitors.

- (a)(1)(xi) **Coal Pits Firearms Range, Helispot and Equipment Storage Area (collectively known as the "Coal Pits Range"), is closed to public access.**

**Justification:** Public presence, use and access are prohibited at the Coal Pits Range except for individuals conducting administrative business. The Coal Pits Range area encompasses approximately 20 acres of fenced NPS land accessed off of Utah St. Rt. 9 at mile marker 25, via small dirt road and fenced / locked NPS gate. The closed area is defined by the fence and posted signs for public safety. This closure is to improve visitor safety and the security of stored equipment.

- (a)(1)(xii) **Park Service Maintenance Operations Area and Oak Creek Maintenance Storage Road is closed to public access. Public use of the Oak Creek Maintenance Storage Road and Storage areas is prohibited without a valid permit from the Superintendent.**

**Justification:** The Park Service Maintenance Area located up the Oak Creek drainage, west of the Park Service Headquarters Building is closed to public presence, use and access except for individuals conducting administrative business. The Maintenance Area encompasses all Park Service developed areas on the south side of the paved Oak Creek utility road. The Oak Creek Maintenance Storage Road, accessed adjacent to the Park Service Maintenance Area and signed with a "DO NOT ENTER" road sign is also closed to public presence, use and access. The Oak Creek Maintenance Storage Road closure does not apply to NPS residents and their guests. This closure is to improve the security of stored equipment and prevent visitor injuries during frequent ongoing maintenance projects.

- (a)(1)(xiii) **Permits for through hikes of the Left Fork of North Creek ("the Subway") will not be issued when the measured snow water equivalent (SWE) at the Kolob Snotel station exceeds 35 inches. The closure will begin April 16th and remain in place until the SWE at the snotel station drops below 10 inches. A through hike is defined as any hike that originates upstream of the Keyhole waterfall. The Zion NP Chief Ranger may modify the closure date or the opening date based on conditions observed by NPS employees.**

**Justification:** During the spring of 2011, multiple canyoneering parties had significant difficulties trying to negotiate the Left Fork route during high water due to snow melt. Similar issues occurred during the spring of 2005, another high water year. The increase in flows due to snow melt does not generally cause difficulty for the average Left Fork canyoneer in an average snow year. This rule is intended to address only the predictable condition where high streamflow will introduce difficulties well beyond those expected by most hikers of the "Subway," and does not address other hazards inherent in this hike.

There is no river gauge to measure flow along the Left Fork of North Creek. The Kolob snotel snow survey station is the closest snow survey station to the Left Fork drainage and provides the only real time measure of potential flow through the drainage. It is located 14.5 miles north, northeast and 700 feet in elevation higher than the headwaters of the Left Fork. The peak snow water equivalent (SWE) at the station in 2011 was 43.10 inches and it occurred from April 11th through 13th. The peak (SWE) in 2005 was 54.80 and occurred on April 15th. Canyoneers had some difficulty but no major issues during the spring of 2010 when the maximum snow water equivalent topped out at 32.10 on April 14th. 35 inches of SWE has been measured at the Kolob snotel station seven times between 1980 and 2011, and the level is 150% of the average snow pack at the station. During those years, the mean peak date was April 16th and the mean date when the SWE dropped below 10 inches was June 10th. . During the spring of 2010, rangers hiked through the Left Fork when the SWE was 9 inches and they found water levels to be near normal.

It is imperative that visitors and employees recognize that there is not an exact correlation between the snow pack at the Kolob snotel site and the water flows in the Left Fork, and that daily weather patterns will have a significant influence on actual flows. This regulation is intended to improve visitor's safety, but it does not guarantee safe water flows in the Left Fork. Visitor's safety is their responsibility. All visitors entering the Left Fork must evaluate their skill levels against the flows that they experience and they must be ready to leave the canyon prior to negotiating the first obstacle if they experience high flows.

The following restrictions and/or conditions are in effect for the specific uses or activities noted under 36 CFR 1.5(a)(2)

(a)(2)(i) ***A permit is required for the following activities:***

- ***Any through day hike of any tributary of the North Fork of the Virgin River, regardless of direction of travel.***
- ***Any hike along any portion of the Subway route from the Northgate Peaks Trail to the Left Fork Trailhead, regardless of direction of travel, to include all portions of the Left Fork of North Creek drainage between Russell Gulch and the Left Fork Trailhead exit trail.***
- ***Any hike within any canyon in the park which normally involves the use of rope, webbing, or other device for descent or ascent.***
- ***All travel above Big Spring in the North Fork of the Virgin River.***

**Justification:** Due to the unique and often-times pristine quality of Zion's narrow canyons, resource impacts must be carefully monitored and managed. Permits provide a means to assess the amount of use a particular canyon is receiving and manage visitor use in specific canyons. Permits are an effective management tool to achieve the desired conditions outlined in the Wilderness Management plan. A permit allows a group to travel through the canyon one time. An additional permit is required for an additional trip.

(a)(2)(i)(A) ***A permit is required for any backcountry activity that has a planned duration in excess of 24 hours.***

**Justification:** Activities occurring in the backcountry that have a planned duration in excess of 24 hours (e.g. marathon hikes or climbs not involving "camping") are normally of such a nature that in order to avoid unnecessary SAR responses it is beneficial for the Park to be aware of trip plans via the permit process.

(a)(2)(ii) ***Research Natural Areas (RNAs) are closed to all recreational use. They include the following areas:***

**Kolob Mesas:** Mesa tops of Timber Top Mountain and Nagunt Mesa overlooking the Kolob Canyons. Also includes the canyon draining west from Timber Top Mountain.

**Shune's Creek:** Shune's Creek Canyon below the Navajo Sandstone cliffs along the southern boundary of the park, excluding the administrative zone around the water right diversion.

**Hanging Garden:** Five hanging gardens in Zion and Parunuweap Canyons. Includes the immediate vicinities of Grotto Spring, Weeping Rock, Sinawava Hanging Garden, and two unnamed springs in Parunuweap Canyon.

**Isolated Mesa Tops:** Isolated mesa tops that are surrounded by high cliffs of Navajo Sandstone. These include Burnt Mountain (south of La Verkin Creek), Greatheart Mesa, Inclined Temple, four unnamed high mesas west of Horse Pasture Plateau, and two closely associated unnamed mesas north of Wynyopits Mountain.

**Goose Creek:** The sandstone slot canyons of Goose Creek, which drains east from Lava Point and Horse Pasture Plateau. A five-mile long tributary of the North Fork of the Virgin River with deep narrow canyons and perennial stream flow in the lower reaches.

**Crazy Quilt Mesa:** The top of Crazy Quilt Mesa and adjacent slopes, east of Checkerboard Mesa

**Slickrock:** An area of slickrock buttes, slopes and traverses, south of Clear Creek, east of Gifford Canyon and around the head of Crawford Wash.

**Southeast Pinyon Juniper:** An area of relatively deep sandy soils supporting relict pinyon-juniper forests in the southeastern most corner of the park.

**Parunuweap:** Includes Parunuweap and most of Shune's Creek Canyons below the Navajo Sandstone, and Transview Mountain above the Navajo Sandstone.

**Justification:** In concurrence with the approved General Management and Wilderness Management Plans, the above areas are closed to recreational use. These RNAs are field ecological areas designated primarily for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity. Baseline inventory and long-term ecological observations will be emphasized in these areas, with the primary purpose of creating an ecological/environmental benchmark over time.

- (a)(2)(iii) ***The Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel is closed to all vehicles at or exceeding 7'10" (main body) in width and/or 11'4" in total height, except under the auspices of a Special Use Permit as allowed under §1.6.***

All non-retractable attachments (mirrors, awnings, bumpers, etc.) are considered part of the main body.

**Justification:** After consultation and survey by the Federal Highway Administration, the determination was made that this tunnel has insufficient clearances to safely allow traffic exceeding this size to pass through, except under escort as provided for by Special Use Permit.

- (a)(2)(iv) ***The following are prohibited from traveling on the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway between the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive and the East Entrance of the park:***

- ***vehicles greater than 13'1" high***
- ***vehicles with a single or combined gross weight greater than 50,000 pounds***
- ***single vehicles greater than 40' long***
- ***commercial tour buses greater than 50' long***
- ***combined vehicles that are greater than 50' long***
- ***combined vehicles where the distance between the hitch attachment of the towing vehicle and the rear-most axle of the towed vehicle exceeds 26 feet***

**Justification:** Restricted use on this portion of road is necessary to maintain traffic safety on a narrow road with sharp curves, which also has one narrow low-clearance tunnel.

- (a)(2)(v) ***Pedestrians and bicycle riders are prohibited within the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel. Bicycles and pedestrians must be transported through the tunnel by a motor vehicle.***

**Justification:** Bicycles and pedestrians must be transported through the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel in a motor vehicle to ensure the safety of bicyclists and to maintain traffic safety in this 1.1 mile long unlit tunnel.

- (a)(2)(vi) ***The Kolob Terrace Road from the bottom of Maloney Hill to the northern park boundary, and the Lava Point and West Rim Roads within the boundaries of Zion National Park, will be closed to all vehicles, except snowmobiles, when it is determined by the Superintendent that road conditions due to snow are either unsafe or susceptible to unwarranted damage due to vehicular traffic.***

Snowmobile travel as regulated by §7.10 is allowed.

This closure will be accomplished with gates, signing, and press notification. Snowmobile use during this time will be restricted to established unplowed roadways only. Snowmobiles are defined as vehicles specifically



manufactured and designed for over snow travel through the use of a track.

**Justification:** In the past, wheeled vehicles and snowmobiles have traveled the same sections of snow-covered roadway. The mixed-traffic use resulted in hazardous conditions where wheeled vehicles had broken through the snow causing damage to the underlying roadway and snowmobiling surface. The National Park Service will close the road to vehicles, except snowmobiles, to eliminate the hazard, road damage, and to lessen conflict between snowmobiles and motor vehicles.

Executive Order 11644 (2/8/72) and Order 11989 (5/24/79) directs that units of the NPS are closed to snowmobile use unless specifically opened in a given area and only allowed where it will not adversely affect the natural, aesthetic, or scenic values of the parks. The above does allow for the required access to private lands.

(a)(2)(vii) ***All Buses (15-50 passenger) must have their vehicle engines shut off while parked unless passengers are actively loading or unloading.***

***Generators may not be left running on any unattended vehicle. This does not apply to those generators utilized during approved generator hours on recreational vehicles occupying a campsite in South Campground.***

**Justification:** The noise and air pollution associated with generators and diesel-powered buses left running for any period of time within the park is unacceptable. Those in South Campground are excepted due to the limited amount of time and specific times of the day that are set aside for generator use in that area.

(a)(2)(viii) ***Group size in the pristine and primitive zones, as defined in the 2001 Zion General Management and 2007 Wilderness Management Plans, shall not exceed 12 people sharing the same affiliation (school, church, club, scout group, family, friends, etc., or combination thereof) in the same drainage or on the same trail on the same day. The same group size shall apply to areas within the GMP pristine zone that are not canyoneering routes. Group size for any canyoneering route in GMP pristine zone shall not exceed six. Canyoneering is defined as any hike within any canyon which normally involves the use of rope, webbing, or other device for descent or ascent.***

This applies to people traveling or camping together, and it applies to day use as well as overnight use.

Groups larger than 12, sharing the same affiliation, may divide into groups smaller than 12, provided they do not occupy the same drainage or the same route on the same day.

**Justification:** Larger groups have been shown to create unacceptable resource impacts as well as noise impacts that adversely affect the experience of other visitors when traveling through the backcountry of Zion National Park. It has been demonstrated that large groups traveling and/or camping in the same drainage or on the same route routinely divide into smaller groups only to reassemble at some point along the trail.

(a)(2)(ix) ***The Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel is closed to any vehicle transporting hazardous materials in such quantity as to require an identification placard (as specified by USDOT regulations).***

**Justification:** In order to minimize the potential for closure of the tunnel, it has been determined that vehicles which carry hazardous materials in such a quantity as to require a placard designating the type of material being transported may not travel through the tunnel. As an alternative, these vehicles may utilize either of the two state highways which border the park to the north and south.

(a)(2)(x) ***Transport of any unprocessed plant, soil, or stone materials is prohibited, unless packaged, contained or covered in a manner that prevents their scattering or release.***

Hay, straw, mulch or feed grain that is certified weed-free by the Utah Department of Agriculture or comparable authority and documented as such, is exempt from this requirement.

**Justification:** The spread of invasive, non-native plants is having serious impact on park ecosystems. These plants can be spread by attaching to vehicles and/or as propagules transported in hay, feed, soil and stone products. This regulation conforms generally to requirements of the Utah Noxious Weed Act.

- (a)(2)(xi) ***Behunin Creek and Heaps Creek as they drop from Middle to Lower Emerald Pool, and Echo Creek as it drops into Weeping Rock are closed to climbing and any form of descending, including rappelling.***

**Justification:** Due to the very fragile hanging gardens and beautiful waterfalls, ascending/descending at these locations conflicts with their inherent natural and scenic values. Additionally, both of these areas are heavily used by park visitors, and ascending/descending at these locations presents an unacceptable safety risk to those below due to the potential for injury from dropped gear (ropes, hardware, etc.) as well as displaced rocks.

- (a)(2)(xii) ***Whenever any vehicle shall have been left unattended in violation of an existing traffic control sign, or parked in such a manner as to compromise public safety, damage park resources, or damage government property, the person in whose name such vehicle is registered or rented shall be subject to the penalty for such violation. This section does not apply to vehicles being used without the consent of the owner.***

**Justification:** Due to limited availability of parking spaces, the unpredictable and ubiquitous presence of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and the close proximity of valuable natural resources and government property to park roadways, the imposition of this condition of use is required to allow management to hold vehicle owners, leasers, or renters accountable for their actions or the actions of those they have allowed to operate their vehicle.

- (a)(2)(xiii) ***Use of any off highway vehicle (OHV), all terrain vehicle (ATV), or other motorized conveyance manufactured for recreational non-highway, off road, or all terrain travel (all-terrain type I or type II vehicles, as defined by Utah State Code Annotated 41-22-2) is prohibited.***

**Justification:** The use on park roads of off highway vehicles (OHVs), all terrain vehicles (ATVs), and other motorized conveyances manufactured for recreational non-highway, off road, or all terrain travel poses a significant risk to park resources and values which cannot be appropriately mitigated, and which cannot be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts. The use of such vehicles is, therefore, not consistent with the protection of the parks and monuments.

- (a)(2)(xiv) ***Roads within Zion National Park, including the Main Park Road, may be closed to all public traffic during times where a weather, environmental or road integrity issue presents a safety hazard to the public or when such a closure will increase the safety of personnel working to resolve the issue.***

## §1.6 Permits

- (a) ***Travel by commercial vehicles on roadways within the park is prohibited without a valid Special Use Permit issued for this purpose.***

**Justification:** Commercial vehicle travel through units of the National Park Service is generally prohibited by 36 CFR 5. 6. Due to the proximity of Zion National Park to a major interstate highway, the growth and development of the surrounding area and the presence of a connecting road (Park Route 10, also known as the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway) through the park, the Superintendent has elected to allow limited commercial vehicle use, subject to regulation through the Special Use Permit (SUP) process, on a one permit per vehicle per day basis.

The following types and sizes of vehicles remain prohibited due to the nature of park roads and infrastructure:

- Those commercial vehicles exceeding the size restrictions contained in § (a) (2) (iv) of this Compendium.
- Commercial vehicles meeting either of the following criteria:
  - Payload capacity greater than 1½ ton (3,000 pounds), or

- GVWR in excess of 14,000 pounds (Class IV truck or higher)

The following commercial vehicles are exempt from this order:

- Commercial vehicles actively engaged in providing services to the park, recognized park residents, or valid commercial entities within the park.
- Vehicles which are commercial in nature but are being utilized solely for recognized non-commercial, recreational purposes.

- (f) The following activities, enumerated by individual sections, require a permit issued by the backcountry permits office or other administrative personnel, subject to cost recovery charges and/or additional requirements as applicable:

- § 1.5 (a)(1)(vi) Watercraft use permits
- § 1.5 (a)(2)(i) Narrow canyon day hike permits
- § 1.5 (a)(2)(i)(A) Any backcountry activity that has a planned duration in excess of 24 hours
- § 1.5 (a)(2)(iii) Convoy permits for restricted use on Zion-Mt. Carmel Road
- § 1.6 (a)(2) Special Use Permits (Wedding, Events)
- § 1.6 (a) Commercial vehicle travel through the park
- § 2.5 (a) Research Collection Permit
- § 2.10 (a) Overnight camping
- § 2.10 (a) Overnight wall climbers
- § 2.50 (a) Special Events Special Use Permits (Events, Races, Weddings, etc.)
- § 2.51 (a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and public expressions of views (Designated locations for First Amendment activities available from Special Permits Office)
- § 2.52 (a) Sale and distribution of printed material
- § 2.62 (b) Memorialization (Scattering of Ashes)
- § 5.3 Commercial Use Authorizations
- § 5.5 (a) Commercial filming permits
- § 5.6 Commercial Vehicles (travel through park)

## §2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

- (a) *The gathering, possession and consumption of all wild fruits, berries and nuts or domestic fruit, berries and nuts are limited to quantities which are consumed the same day.*

**Justification:** This limited use of these renewable resources will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproduction of any plant species, or other park resources. Traditional use and collection by Native American tribal members is allowed within the parameters defined by the General Agreement in place between the park and the tribe in question.

## §2.2 Wildlife Protection

- (d) *The transportation of lawfully taken wildlife over publicly owned park lands is allowed on the Kolob Terrace Road, all roads open for public travel within the Lava Point road network (except within Lava Point Campground), those roads on park lands necessary for egress from private inholdings, the Zion-Mt. Carmel Highway, and the Horse Ranch Mountain Road. Taken wildlife must have a valid state tag attached to the animal in accordance with all applicable state regulations.*

**Justification:** The Superintendent is given the authority under this section to establish conditions and procedures for transporting lawfully taken wildlife through the park. It is the intent of the Superintendent to allow transport of lawfully taken wildlife through only those areas of the park on the direct route of travel between the place where a legal taking of wildlife has occurred and the residence of the individual who has performed that legal taking.

- (e) *The park is closed to the use of artificial light for purposes of viewing wildlife.*

**Justification:** Spotlighting may potentially disturb wildlife; this activity is prohibited to minimize this chance of disturbance.

## §2.10 Camping and Food Storage

- (a)(1) *A backcountry permit is required for all backcountry camping.*

**Justification:** Due to the unique and often pristine quality of Zion's backcountry, resource impacts must be carefully monitored and managed. Permits provide a means to assess the amount of use a particular area is receiving, as well as providing management with a tool to limit the number of users so that the resource is protected and visitor experience is maintained.

- (a)(2) *Checkout time of campsites in developed campgrounds is 11:00 a.m.*

**Justification:** Zion's developed campgrounds fill to capacity on a regular basis and incoming campers are inconvenienced when campsites are still occupied by the previous night's tenants. It is reasonable to expect campers will be able to make all necessary preparations to vacate their campsite by 11:00 a.m.

- (a)(3) *With the exception of Watchman Campground Loop E (large group campsites), developed campgrounds are limited to the following:*

- *A maximum occupancy of six persons*
- *A maximum of three tents. Tents must fit within the developed area of the campsite.*
- *A maximum of two vehicles, or four motorcycles, or one RV or camping trailer.*

For purposes of this regulation, a person is considered to be any individual over the age of 24 months and a vehicle is considered to be any car, R.V. or trailer. Vehicles must be parked completely in the delineated parking area provided at each site. Tents must be placed within 20 feet of the fire ring South Campground and within the boundaries of constructed tent pads in Watchman Campground. In the Lava Point Campground, tents must be placed within 35 feet of the fire ring. In all campgrounds tents must not be placed on vegetation of any kind. Parties larger than six persons must occupy more than one campsite. Three large tents will not fit within most campsite boundaries.

**Justification:** Placing a limit on site occupancy, number of tents and number of vehicles is necessary to limit the impacts on other campers and park resources. Allowing for more tents at the discretion of the campground supervisor provides those campers who wish to utilize multiple small tents the ability to do so provided they do not cause resource damage in the process.

- (a)(4)(i) *The C, D, E and F loops of Watchman Campground are closed to recreational vehicles.*

A recreational vehicle is defined to include any vehicle, driven or towed, equipped with permanently installed sleeping, cooking, and/or water storage facilities.

Camper vans such as Westphalia or other similar conversion vans with a gross vehicular weight of 4,500 pounds or less are not subject to this restriction.

**Justification:** Tent camping loops were designated as such to provide campers with a degree of separation from large recreational vehicles. Additionally, the E (group) loop has limited parking available for the large groups that occupy this area. These camper vans are no larger than many tent camping support vehicles.

- (a)(4)(ii) *Watchman Campground B loop sites 18abc and 53 abc are limited to recreational vehicles. Tent camping is not permitted.*

## Compendium

A recreational vehicle is defined to include any vehicle, driven or towed, equipped with permanently installed sleeping, cooking, and/or water storage facilities.

**Justification:** The campsites were not designed to allow for space to erect tents.

- (a)(4)(iii) *Group camping in the Watchman designated group camping area is limited to one site per affiliated group. Each site has an established maximum number of occupants and maximum number of vehicles, neither of which may be exceeded.*

*Group camping is only available during the reservation season with a seven-day per stay limit and a cumulative total of 14 days during a calendar year.*

*Vehicles may be parked only in the designated parking area for the assigned campsite or in the designated overflow parking area.*

**Justification:** These regulations are necessary to allow for equitable allocation and protection of resources.

- (a)(5) *Camping in developed campgrounds is limited to a cumulative total of fourteen days during the reservation season and a total of thirty days outside the reservation system for a total of forty-four days a calendar year.*

*Camping in the backcountry is limited to 14 days per permit, with the exception of a one-night limit in the Virgin River Narrows and in Hop Valley Site A (when used as a horse camp). After camping for 14 days, persons must wait a period of 14 days before camping again within the park's backcountry.*

**Justification:** In the interest of equitable allocation and use of facilities, certain restrictions are needed on camping activities. Limitations on camping days provide the opportunity for a camping experience to the greatest number of people in heavy use campgrounds and assure the park is not used as a semi-permanent residence beyond the intent in providing the facility.

- (a)(6) *Attaching or suspending any item from trees which may cause tree or limb damage is prohibited, as is attaching any item to trees or vegetation with nails, wire or chains. Candles or lanterns are not to be hung from tree limbs by any means. Clotheslines longer than 15 feet or numbering greater than one per campsite are prohibited.*

**Justification:** Certain items and methods of attachment cause damage to park resources or detract from scenic values and are not consistent with the purpose for which the campgrounds were developed.

- (a)(7) *The use of electrical generators is prohibited at all times in all loops of Watchman Campground.*

*The use of electrical generators is prohibited in South Campground and Lava Point campgrounds, except for the periods between 8am to 10am and 6pm to 8pm.*

**Justification:** Watchman Campground has two loops that have electrical hookups for campers. South Campground and Lava Point Campground do not offer electrical hookups and use of electrical generators is permitted on a limited basis. In the interest of protecting natural and aesthetic values associated with camping, the noise associated with electrical generators must be limited.

- (a)(8) *Installation or use of any sports equipment that requires the placing of stakes or other items into the ground or whose use would cause resource damage or creates a public safety hazard is prohibited. Examples of such equipment includes, but is not limited to, horseshoe stakes, volleyball nets, lawn darts, group football games, etc.*

**Justification:** In the interest of protecting environmental and scenic values and protection of natural resources and aesthetic values associated with the experience of camping in a National Park, restrictions must be placed on the

participation in certain sports activities and the use of certain sports equipment which would negatively impact park resources and the visiting public.

- (a)(9) ***Backcountry camping in Zion National Park is limited to those areas outlined in the current edition of the Zion National Park Backcountry Planner. Additional areas where backcountry camping is allowed are:***
- ***Climbing routes. Camping is allowed on cliff faces.***
  - ***Heaps and Imlay Canyons.***

The backcountry Planner map is the primary means for identifying legal camping areas. The format of the map does not allow climbing routes and some canyoneering routes to be identified as available for at large camping.

***Throughout the park's backcountry, no camping is permitted in the following areas:***

- ***within 1-mile of any road(other than climbing routes),***
- ***within 1/4-mile of a spring,***
- ***within 1/4-mile of the park boundary,***
- ***within sight of trails,***
- ***under rock overhangs, or***
- ***on private inholdings.***

**Justification:** In heavily used area (LaVerkin Creek, Hop Valley, Southwest Desert, West Rim, and Narrows), camping is limited to designated campsites to limit resource damage. In more lightly used areas, open camping is appropriate.

- (d) ***Within all developed campgrounds all food products and garbage must be stored inside a vehicle or a secure lockable hard sided container. This does not apply to food that is being transported, consumed, or prepared for consumption. For the purpose of the following food storage restrictions, "food items" shall be defined as food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage (including empty cans, food wrappers, etc.) must be stored or disposed of consistent with these regulations. Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for non-targeted wildlife, such as raccoons, elk, deer, and bears, and are not allowed in NPS permanent and seasonal housing areas or in established campsites in any campground. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed, or stored in the same manner as food.***

**Justification:** Food items and trash left unsecured are at high risk of becoming subject to opportunistic feeding by the local animal population. This opportunistic feeding may pose health concerns to the animals over time, has proven to create an aggressive animal population and has resulted in avoidable visitor injury and property damage. The primary purpose of these regulations is to maintain public health and safety, and to avoid conflict between visitor use activities and natural resources.

## §2.13 Fires

- (a)(1)(i) ***Fires in developed areas are allowed only in designated government receptacles such as found in the campgrounds and picnic areas or in private enclosed grills where no scorching of the ground surface occurs. If a private enclosed grill is used, all ashes must be thoroughly extinguished, cooled, and removed from the park or placed in trash receptacles. Fires in the developed area of NPS employee housing are permitted if kept in designated receptacles.***

**Justification:** In the interest of protection of environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources and public safety, these restrictions on fires are necessary. These restrictions do not affect the use of stoves or lanterns for camping purposes.

- (a)(1)(ii) ***Fires are prohibited in non-developed areas, i.e., all park areas with the exception of Watchman, South and Lava Point Campgrounds, the associated campground picnic areas, and the Grotto Picnic Area.***

**Justification:** In the interest of protection of environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources and public safety, these restrictions on fires are necessary. These restrictions do not affect the use of stoves or lanterns for camping purposes.

## §2.14 Sanitation and Refuse

- (b)(1) *Overnight Narrows backpackers must carry solid human waste out of the backcountry in personal backcountry toilet bags. All overnight Narrows backpacking groups must carry at least one personal backcountry toilet bag per person while hiking in the Narrows. In other areas, human waste must be carried out in personal backcountry toilet bags or buried at least four to six inches deep, 200 feet from water sources. Toilet paper must be carried out. Big wall climbers must tube their human waste while on multi-day wall climbs.*

**Justification:** Human waste is a threat to public health and environmental and scenic values.

- (b)(2) *Disposal of human waste is permitted only at designated campground dump stations by registered campers or individuals who have to tube their waste while on multi-day big wall climbs within the park.*

**Justification:** The Superintendent is limiting the amount of human waste disposed of in the park due to concerns regarding disposal costs and dump station vault space.

- (b)(3) *The use of solar showers in campgrounds requires gray water collection and proper disposal per established campground regulations. "Gray water", defined as the waste water produced by showering, bathing, cleaning, rinsing, etc. any person or object with soap or other cleaning products, must be collected and disposed of at either a designated campground disposal area, a dump station designed for the disposal of human waste products or removed from the campground in a tank designed for holding such waste.*

**Justification:** Soapy run off and gray water disposal directly on the ground is inconsistent with maintaining a natural park environment. Gray water is a waste product that may contain chemicals or other pollutants that may harm the sensitive desert ecosystem, disrupt natural processes, and pollute pristine park surface and groundwater reserves. Facilities for proper disposal of this waste are provided at all developed campgrounds.

## §2.15 Pets

- (a)(1)(i) *Pets are prohibited on all trails (with the exception of the Pa'rus trail) and in the backcountry. This prohibition does not include service animals.*

*No pets, other than service animals, are allowed on the park transportation shuttle buses.  
Pet excrement must be picked up from all areas within Zion National Park.*

*The primary purpose of this regulation is to avoid conflict between visitor use activities and natural resources, and to maintain public health and safety.*

*Park employees residing in the park may keep pets in accordance with Zion National Park Housing Plan.*

*Properly restrained pets are allowed along public roads and parking areas (generally within 100 feet of the road surface), in the developed campgrounds and picnic areas, and on the grounds of the Zion Lodge.*

**Justification:** Consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. The burden is placed on pet owners to assure their pets do not destroy park values for others in those areas where they are allowed. Pet disposal stations are provided along the Pa'Rus Trail for this purpose.

- (a)(3)(i) ***Pets may be left unattended in developed campgrounds provided all other requirements of 36 CFR 2.15 are observed. Unattended pets observed making unreasonable noise will be considered prima facie evidence of failure by the owner to meet requirements of 36 CFR (a)(4). Leaving a pet unattended in a vehicle with environmental conditions that pose a health risk to the animal is prohibited.***

**Justification:** Consistent with public health and safety, protection of natural resources and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, pets must be restricted. The burden is placed on pet owners to assure their pets do not destroy park values for others in those areas where they are allowed. Environmental conditions that pose a health risk to the animal may be determined by NPS personnel observing ambient temperatures, the probability of unhealthy conditions within the vehicle, and observing signs of distress from an animal. If NPS personnel determine an animal is in imminent danger action may be taken to prevent further harm to the animal.

## **§2.16 Horses and Pack Animals**

- (a) “Saddle stock” is defined, for purposes of the Zion National Park General Management Plan, as stock carrying either riders or equipment/supplies and is limited to horses, mules, and burros.

“Pack animals”, for purposes of 36 CFR 2.16(a) are defined as mules and burros. Llamas, goats, dogs, and all other animals are specifically excluded for use as pack animals within Zion National Park.

- (b) ***The use of saddle stock or pack animals is prohibited, except in the following areas:***

The following trails are open to horse or pack animal use:

- LaVerkin Creek Trail west of Beartrap Canyon
- Hop Valley Trail
- Connector Trail
- Northgate Peaks Trail
- Wildcat Canyon Trail
- West Rim Trail north of Cabin Spring
- Sawmill Spring Trail
- Telephone Canyon Trail
- East Mesa Trail east of the Observation Point Trail junction
- East Rim Trail south of Stave Spring
- Deer Trap Mountain Trail
- Cable Mountain Trail
- Chinle Trail
- Sandbench Trail (open to public use from November 1 to March 1 only)

Off-trail use of horses or pack animals is permitted only in:

- Lower Coalpits Wash from the trailhead to the junction with Scoggins Wash
- Scoggins Wash
- Huber Wash

Horse or pack animal use on backcountry trails is prohibited during spring thaws, during unusually wet periods, and at other times when, at the Superintendent's discretion, use would cause undue trail damage.

NPS administrative uses are exempt in these areas for the purpose of resource/visitor protection and the utilization of minimum tool for trail maintenance.

- (g)(1) ***Grazing of horses or pack animals within park boundaries is prohibited.***

Stock must be fed only certified weed-free feed 24 hours prior to entering the backcountry. Stock users are required



to pack feed such as grain or pellets that are certified as weed-free. This feed must be protected from animal depredation and any unused feed must be packed out. A feed bag must also be used in the backcountry. Stock manure must be collected upon unloading and loading from trailers with the manure removed from the park to reduce the potential for exotic plant introduction.

- (g)(2) *Overnight camping with horses or pack animals is limited to Hop Valley Site A, and is permitted for one night only.*
- (g)(3) *Horses or pack animals will be hobbled or tethered on a high line (6-7 feet) between trees, or otherwise restrained in a manner preventing damage to trees. Animals will not be picketed or tied to a single tree.*
- (g)(4) *Horses or pack animals will be kept more than 200 feet from any spring, stream, or other water source unless in the act of watering, riding or leading the animal near or across the water as a necessary function of backcountry travel.*
- (g)(5) *A maximum of 6 horses or pack animals are allowed in any single party traveling in Zion National Park. These groups may not be split up as referenced in section 1.5 (a)(2)(viii).*

The contracted concessionaire is excluded from this restriction while traveling along the Sandbench Trail for commercial horse trail rides.

**Justification:** Stock and pack animals are defined as horses, mules, llamas, and burros for the purpose of this regulation. Stock use within the park is historically documented and their continued presence is conditionally permitted. Consistent with public health, protection of environmental values and natural resources, and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the Superintendent has determined that restriction of horse and saddle stock is necessary.

The LaVerkin Creek drainage is not suitable for overnight-pack stock use due to designated campsites that are heavily used and not adequate for stock tethering, picketing, or high-lining. Tying of animals is necessary to minimize resource damage, pollution of water sources and destruction of vegetation.

The Kolob Arch trail is not appropriate for saddle stock as it involves scrambling over large boulders, steep slickrock, and stream bottom areas.

Beartrap Canyon and Willis Creek are narrow canyons characterized by no maintained trail, a number of steep banks, slopes, and stream bottom areas, which make the route unsuitable for stock use.

The East Mesa Trail below its junction with the Observation Point Trail and Zion Canyon trails from the rim to the canyon floor are heavily traveled by hikers, and the trails are often steep and narrow.

Restricting the presence of animals in developed areas is necessary to maintain a non-offensive and sanitary condition in these areas of intensive use.

For the safety of riders, the Sandbench Trail is closed to non-concessionaire use during the operation of the concessionaire-contracted trail rides.

The Taylor Creek Trail, a front country route, is characterized by numerous steep creek banks, steep slopes, and numerous short stream crossings. Large groups of stock with riders create unacceptable resource impacts while standing/stopping in fragile riparian and canyon areas.

Due to problems with the spread of noxious/exotic weeds, all stock using Zion National Park must be fed only certified weed-free hay and feed 24 hours prior to entering the park and using park trails.

## §2.20 Skating, Skateboards, and Similar Devices

- (a) *The use of roller skates, inline skates and two wheeled, non-motorized scooters is permitted on the Pa'rus trail, the paved roadways within Watchman and South Campgrounds, and employee housing areas. Skateboards and all other similar devices are prohibited.*

**Justification:** The areas listed are either closed to motor vehicles or have a speed limit low enough to minimize conflicts between these devices and motor vehicles.

## §2.21 Smoking

- (a) *Public access areas of public buildings are closed to smoking.*

*Backcountry areas (including trails) are closed to smoking from May1 through September 30 of each year.*

**Justification:** In the interest of fire prevention, this prohibition is consistent with state law and past practice.

## §4.11

- (a) *Dump trucks, cement trucks and truck tractors carrying or towing either trailers or semitrailers are prohibited on the Kolob Terrace Road from April 2 to June 30 of each year, except for farm trucks, farm tractors, fuel trucks and vehicles with permits. A farm truck is a truck used by the owner or operator of a farm solely for his or her own use in the transportation of farm products, farm supplies, and animals. Permits issued by Washington County or Zion National Park are deemed valid for purposes of this section.*

**Justification:** This section is adopted from Washington County, Utah code. The purpose of this section is to protect highway foundation, surfaces and structures on the Kolob Terrace Road from damage and deterioration caused by climatic conditions by restricting the use of certain vehicles during certain times of the year.

## §4.21 Speed Limits

- (b) *The speed limit on all park roads is 35 mph unless otherwise posted.*

**Justification:** Due to the character of park roads, 35 mph is the maximum speed limit, unless otherwise posted or when conditions for safe travel dictate less.

## §4.30 Bicycles

- (a) *The Pa'rus Trail is open to use by bicycles, wheelchairs, motorized wheelchairs, and electric carts similar to wheelchairs to include Segways. It is closed to all other vehicles and forms of conveyance both motorized and non-motorized except for those authorized under § 2.20.*

*The Riverside Walk Trail is open to use by wheelchairs, motorized wheelchairs and electric carts similar to wheelchairs, to include Segways. The Lower Emerald Pools Trail is open to use by non-motorized wheelchairs. Both trails are closed to all other vehicles and forms of conveyance both motorized and non-motorized*

**Justification:** The Pa'rus, Riverside Walk and Lower Emerald Pools Trails are closed to all vehicles except those identified above due to the need to protect the park's natural, scenic, and aesthetic values, while contributing to minimal disturbance to wildlife or park resources. Additionally, due to the narrow width of the trails, safety considerations preclude the use of any vehicles other than those identified above.

## §4.31 Hitchhiking

- (a) ***Hitchhiking is allowed only in established roadside pullouts.***

**Justification:** It is occasionally necessary for park visitors to solicit transportation from others in order to reach their destinations and in order to transit the Zion-Mt. Carmel Tunnel. In order to provide for this transportation need and the safety considerations associated with hitchhiking, it will be allowed only in established roadside pullouts.